

1. Exercises: Introduction to Scala (WiP)

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Concurrent Programming – Part 2

These exercises are taken mainly from the book “*Learning Concurrent Programming in Scala*”, and are designed to test the knowledge of the Scala programming language. You should solve them by sketching out a pseudocode solution, rather than a complete Scala program.

Exercise 1. Set up your computer to compile and run Scala.

1.1. Install SBT – <http://www.scala-sbt.org>.

1.2. Open a Command Prompt.

1.3. Create a folder for the project:

```
> mkdir cp2324
> cd cp2324
```

1.4. Create a source code directory for our examples:

```
> mkdir -p src/main/scala/cp/lablessons/
```

1.5. Create the configuration file `build.sbt` below at the root of `cp2324` (empty lines are mandatory).

```
name := "CP2324"

version := "1.0"

scalaVersion := "2.12.18"
```

1.6. Make your hello-world program. Use your favourite editor `EDIT`.

```
> mkdir src/main/scala/cp/lablessons/lesson1
> EDIT src/main/scala/cp/lablessons/lesson1/HelloWorld.scala
```

```
package cp.lablessons.lesson1

object HelloWorld extends App {
  println("Hello, world!")
}
```

1.7. Go back to the terminal and run SBT to start an interactive shell:

```
> sbt
```

1.8. Run your program:

```
sbt> run
```

[**Note:** You can also compile, ~compile, console, and many other. For example, you can compile and run java from the command line:
java -cp ~/.sbt/boot/scala-2.12.12/lib/scala-library.jar:target/scala-2.12/classes/
cp.lablessons.lesson1.HelloWorld]

1.9. Extend the `build.sbt` with dependencies that we may need during the semester.

```
resolvers += Seq(
  "Sonatype_OSS_Snapshots" at
    "https://oss.sonatype.org/content/repositories/snapshots",
  "Sonatype_OSS_Releases" at
    "https://oss.sonatype.org/content/repositories/releases",
  "Typesafe_Repository" at
    "https://repo.typesafe.com/typesafe/releases/"
)

libraryDependencies += Seq(
  "commons-io" % "commons-io" % "2.4"
)
```

If you are in the SBT shell and you modify the `build.sbt` you need to reload it:

```
sbt> reload
```

Exercise 2. Implement a compose method with the following signature:

```
def compose[A, B, C](g: B => C, f: A => B): A => C = ???
```

This method must return a function `h`, which is the composition of the functions `f` and `g`.

Exercise 3. Implement a fuse method with the following signature:

```
def fuse[A, B](a: Option[A], b: Option[B]): Option[(A, B)] = ???
```

The resulting `Option` object should contain a tuple of values from the `Option` objects `a` and `b`, given that both `a` and `b` are non-empty. Implement two variations: with for-comprehensions and with pattern matching.

Exercise 4. Implement a check method, which takes a set of values of type `T` and a function of type `T => Boolean`:

```
def check[T](xs: Seq[T])(pred: T => Boolean): Boolean = ???
```

The method must return true if and only if the `pred` function returns true for all the values in `xs` without throwing an exception. Use the check method as follows:

```
check(0 until 10)(40 / _ > 0)
```

[**Note:** The check method has a curried definition: instead of just one parameter list, it has two of them. Curried definitions allow a nicer syntax when calling the function, but are otherwise semantically equivalent to single-parameter list definitions.]

Exercise 5. Modify the `Pair` class from the theoretical lessons so that it can be used in a pattern match.

Exercise 6. Implement a permutations function, which, given a string, returns a sequence of strings that are lexicographic permutations of the input string:

```
def permutations(x: String): Seq[String]
```

Exercise 7. Implement a combinations function that, given a sequence of elements, produces an iterator over all possible combinations of length *n*. A combination is a way of selecting elements from the collection so that every element is selected once, and the order of elements does not matter. For example, given a collection `Seq(1,4,9,16)`, combinations of length 2 are `Seq(1,4)`, `Seq(1,9)`, `Seq(1,16)`, `Seq(4,9)`, `Seq(4,16)`, and `Seq(9,16)`. The combinations function has the following signature:

```
def combinations(n: Int, xs: Seq[Int]): Iterator[Seq[Int]]
```

See the Iterator API in the standard library documentation. (Suggestion: implement first a functional variation that returns `Seq[Seq[Int]]`, without the iterator.)

Exercise 8. Implement a method that takes a regular expression, and returns a partial function from a string to lists of matches within that string:

```
def matcher(regex: String): PartialFunction[String,List[String]]
```

The partial function should not be defined if there are no matches within the argument strings. Otherwise, it should use the regular expression to output the list of matches.

Exercise 9. Consider that you and three of your colleagues working in an office divided into cubicles. You cannot see each other, and you are not allowed to verbally communicate, as that might disturb other workers. Instead, you can throw pieces of paper with short messages at each other. Since you are confined in a cubicle, neither of you can tell if the message has reached its destination. At any point, you or one of your colleagues may be called to the boss's office and kept there indefinitely. Design an algorithm in which you and your colleagues can decide when to meet at the local bar. With the exception of the one among you who was called to the boss's office, all of you have to decide on the same time. What if some of the paper pieces can arbitrarily miss the target cubicle?

Exercise 10. Imagine that, in the previous exercise, you and your colleagues also have a whiteboard in the hall next to the office. Each one of you can occasionally pass through the hall and write something on the whiteboard, but there is no guarantee that either of you will be in the hall at the same time. Solve the problem from the previous exercise, this time using the whiteboard.